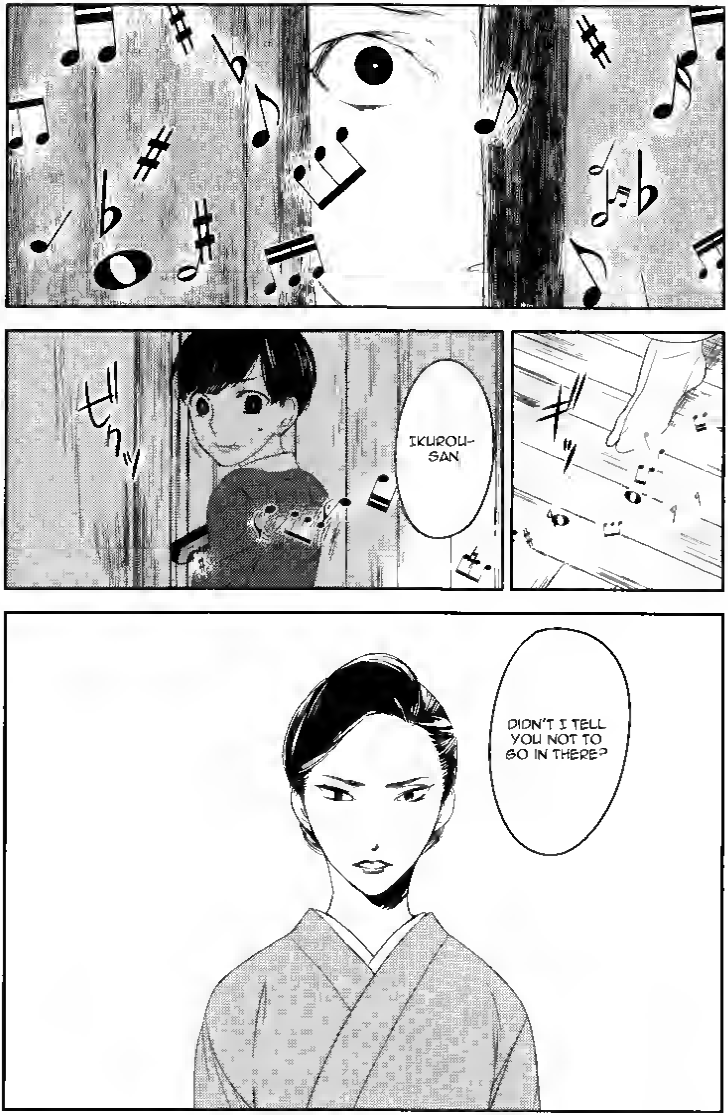
彩景でりこ 新連載!! 蟷螂の檻


IKUROU-SAN
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO GO IN THERE?

I'M SORRY, MOTHER
IT WAS
AS IF

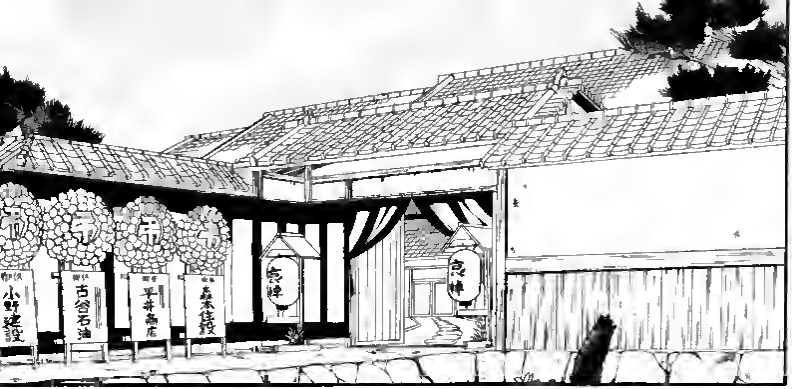
大注目 新連載 開幕。

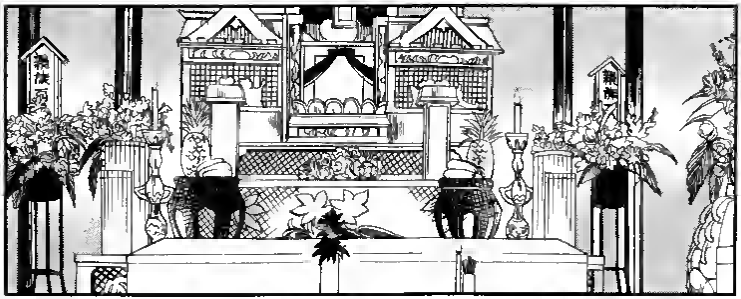
蟷螂の檻

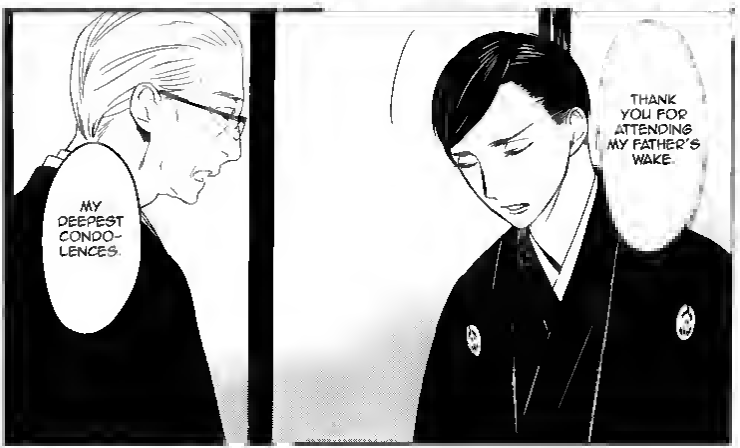
ストーリー初登場！

彩景でりこ

FATHER
IT WAS AS IF HE WAS BEING EATEN


小野建設
古谷石油
平井商店
森本住設



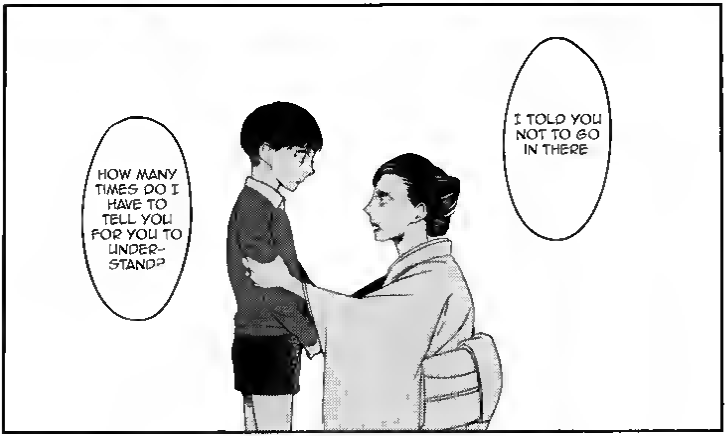

MY DEEPEST CONDO-LENCES.
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING MY FATHER'S WAKE.

IKUROU-SAN YOU HAVE ROSE TO BE A GREAT MAN JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER WAS.
BUT I HEAR YOU'VE QUIT THE UNIVERSITY AND RETURNED BACK HERE?
THIS IS MR. MATSUKAWA, A BRANCH MANAGER OF TOUMA FORESTRY IN KYOTO. HE HAS TIES WITH THE KYOTO BRANCH FAMILY.
AH, PARDON ME FOR NOT INTRODUCING MYSELF SOONER
THE LAST I'VE MET YOU WAS WHEN YOU WERE STILL A CHILD
SO IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE THAT YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME
THE PRESIDENT PASSED AWAY BEFORE HIS TIME. BUT
HAVING A WORTHY MAN SUCH AS IKUROU-SAN TO SUCCEED THE COMPANY WILL SURELY GIVE HIM A PEACE OF MIND IN THE AFTER LIFE.
HE TRULY WAS AN EXCELLENT MAN

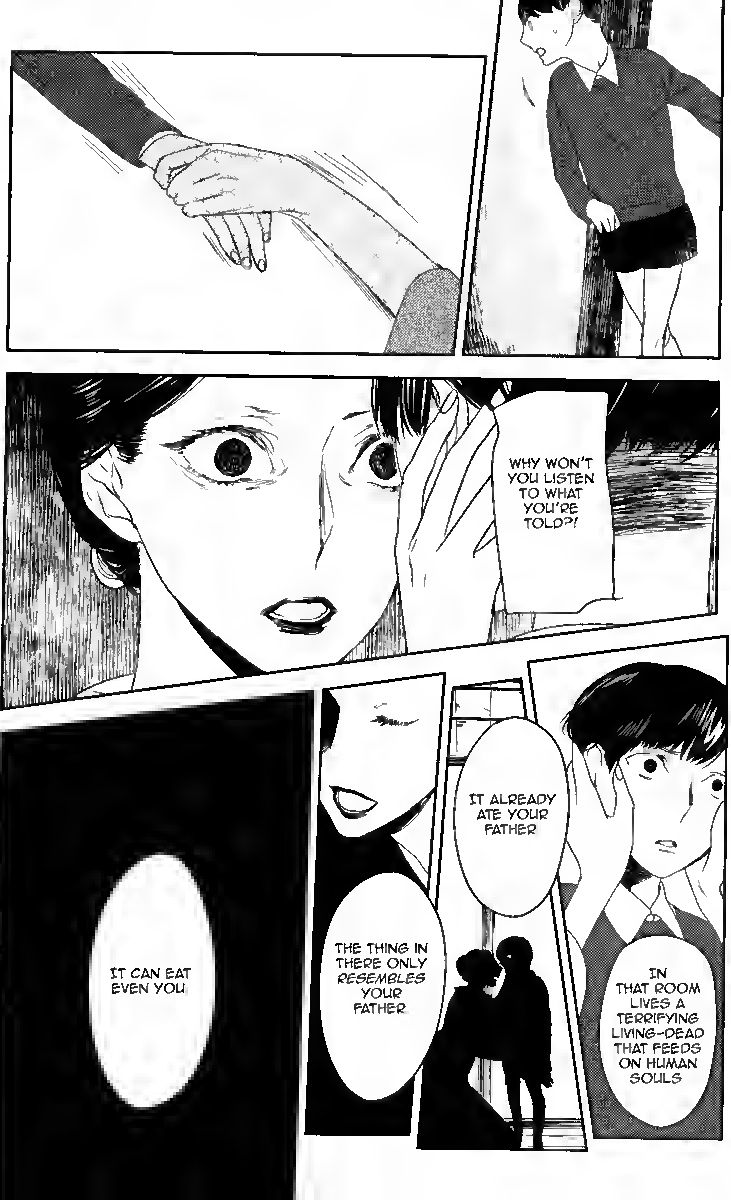
I UNDERSTAND HOW PAINFUL IT MUST BE TO LOSE YOUR FATHER
YOU HAVE MY MOST HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES
THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, SACHIKO
NORIHIKO, DID YOU SEE THAT? THAT WOMAN JUST NOW WAS MOVED TO TEARS
AN OLD MAN SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW DIED, AND SHE'S PUTTING ON THIS GREAT BIG SHOW
IT SEEMS LIKE THEY THINK WE'RE A GOLD MINE, DOESN'T IT?
IT REALLY IS TRUE THAT RELATIVES START TO SHOW UP ONLY AT FUNERALS.
STOP IT. WHAT IF SOMEONE HEARS YOU?
THESE THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT UNSAID IN FRONT OF THE DECEASED
THE DECEASED, HUH? ...DO YOU REMEMBER THAT OLD MAN'S LAST WILL?
THEY SHOULD SUCK UP TO *THAT GUY* INSTEAD OF ME

ALL OF THE INHERITANCE BELONGS TO HIM ANYWAYS.

IKUROU -SAN.


I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO IN THERE
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU FOR YOU TO UNDER-STAND?

I'M SORRY! MY AIR-PLANE FLEW IN THERE
AND THEN I HEARD A SONG FROM THERE. SO I JUST...
I CAN ALWAYS BUY YOU ANOTHER AIRPLANE
UM BUT FATHER MADE THIS ONE FOR ME.
Slap!


WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN TO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD?!
IN THAT ROOM LIVES A TERRIFYING LIVING-DEAD THAT FEEDS ON HUMAN SOULS
IT ALREADY ATE YOUR FATHER
THE THING IN THERE ONLY *RESEMBLES* YOUR FATHER
IT CAN EAT EVEN YOU.

Wa-
-aa
-aa
-aahh!!
URGH

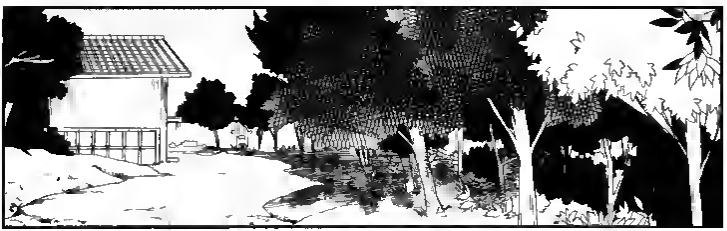
MOTHER DID IT! MOTHER DID IT!
YOUNG MASTER, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
NORI-HIKO!
NOOO!!
SOB
SOB
MADAM, YOUR BODY WILL GET CHILLY
LET'S GO OVER THERE
I'M NOT BAD

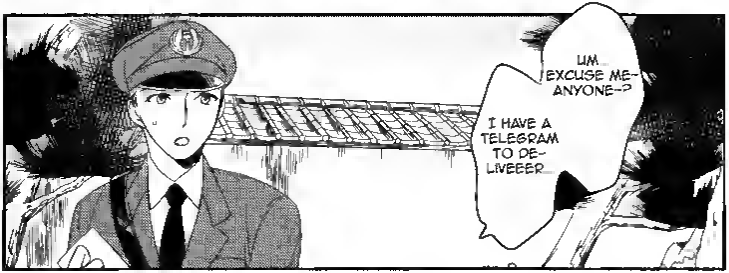
EVEN THOUGH IKUROU AND I ARE HERE
SUCH
CALM DOWN, MADAM
THAT PERSON IS BAD
SUCH DIRTY
COME YOUNG MASTER, YOU TOO
I'LL TREAT YOUR WOUNDS.
YOU MUST NOT COME NEAR HERE ANYMORE
SOON AFTER THAT, I HEARD THAT SHE PASSED AWAY
BEFORE LONG, MOTHER GREW MENTALLY ILL, AND THAT WAS THE REASON FOR THE DIVORCE

HE PRACTICALLY NEVER LOOKED AT ME
AFTER THAT, FATHER BEGAN TO STAY LONGER AND LONGER IN THAT INNERMOST ROOM
HE WAS A DISTANT FATHER.
IN THE END, FATHER SUCCUMBED TO ILLNESS.
THERE IS A PRISON IN THAT INNERMOST ROOM AND WHAT IS HIDDEN IN THERE IS,
IN THIS DAY AND AGE OF THE SHOWA...

MY OLDER BROTHER, AS I HAD DISCOVERED.

<CREAK>
<CRACK>




UM EXCUSE ME- ANYONE--?
I HAVE A TELEGRAM TO DE- LIVEEER

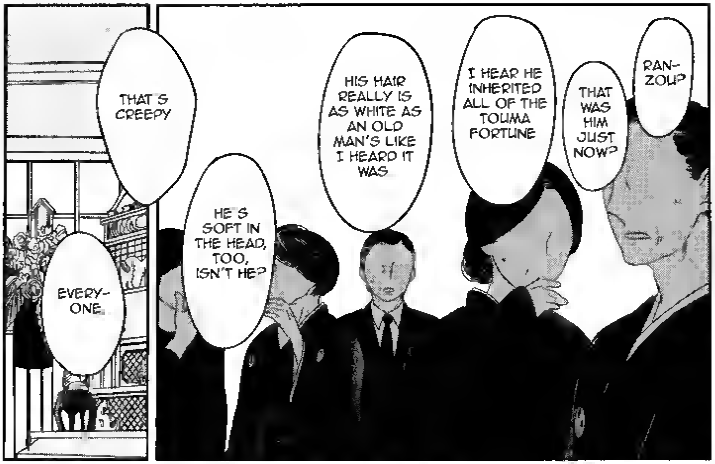
HUH?
I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO A NEW LOCATION, RECENTLY SO I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THESE SURROUNDINGS
ALSO, THIS GARDEN IS LARGE SO I GOT LOST
OH!
An old woman!
EXCUSE ME, THIS IS THE TOUMA RESIDENCY, ISN'T IT?
I HAVE A TELEGRAM TO DELIVER.
KYAA!

WAAH!
EEK!

<CRASH!>
NOO!
UWAAA!

Kyaa-!
Uwaa!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HURRY UP AND SEIZE HIM
YES

Ah!
Ah!
Ah!
Ugh!
<GRAB>
YOU MUSTN'T DO THAT RANZOU-SAN
LET'S GO OVER THERE
AH
AH
AH
AH


RAN-ZOU?
THAT WAS HIM JUST NOW?
I HEAR HE INHERITED ALL OF THE TOUMA FORTUNE
HIS HAIR REALLY IS AS WHITE AS AN OLD MAN'S LIKE I HEARD IT WAS
HE'S SOFT IN THE HEAD, TOO, ISN'T HE?
THAT'S CREEPY
EVERY-ONE

I'M TRULY SORRY FOR HAVING CAUSED YOU SUCH A TERRIBLE DISTURBANCE

DON'T
JUST SHOW UP AS YOU PLEASE!!
<THUD>
YOU'RE WASTING MY TIME!
<KICK>

Agh!
THAT'S ENOUGH STOP IT

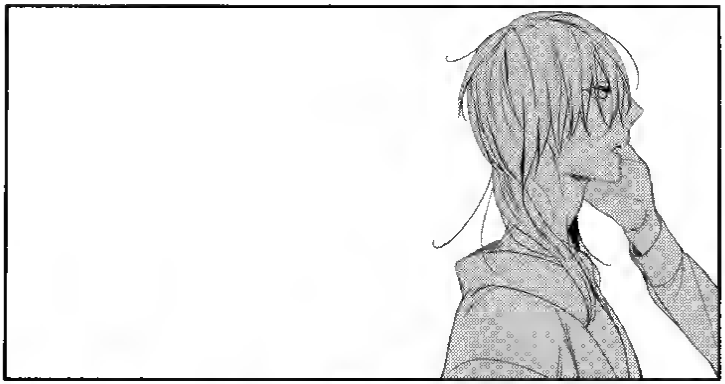
YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR
I'M JUST DISCIPLINING AN IDIOT WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S TOLD
WHY STOP?

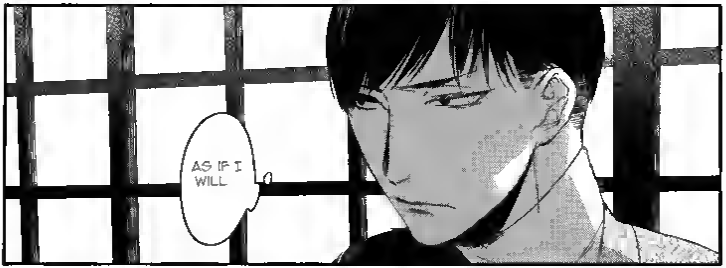
HE'S YOUR ONLY FAMILY
SOB
SOB
IN THE WILL, IT SAID WE ARE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.
HA!
<GRAB>
TAKE CARE OF THIS TRASH?
AAH!
IT DIDN'T SEEM REAL TO ME WHEN THEY TOLD ME THAT I HAD AN OLDER BROTHER WHO WAS KEPT IN HIDING FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS.
UH-UH
UH-UH

THAT WAS BE-CAUSE MADAM
MOTHER DIED BECAUSE OF HIM
AND SO DID FATHER...
(SHOVE)
AND NOW WE ARE LEFT TO DEAL WITH THIS FINE NUISANCE.
AHA

AHA
HA
HA
HA
HAA

<KICK>
YOUNG MASTER!
<SLAM!>
Ashi!





To be continued

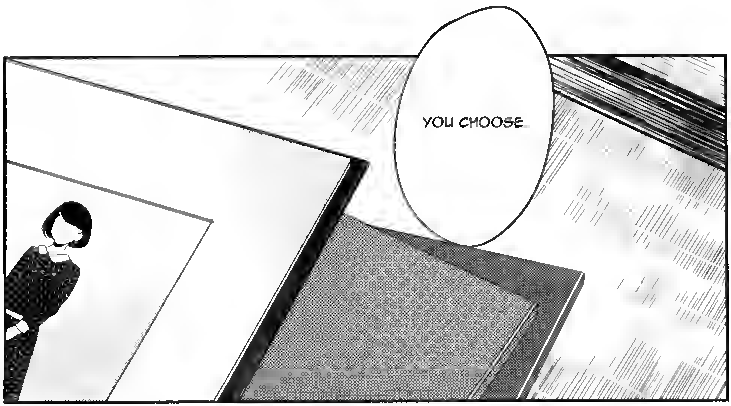
"TOUROU NO ORI" (CAGE OF THE PRAYING MANTIS) BY PSYCHE DELICO

SCANS: HTTP://COCOBEES.TUMBLR.COM/

TRANSLATOR: HANACOCO

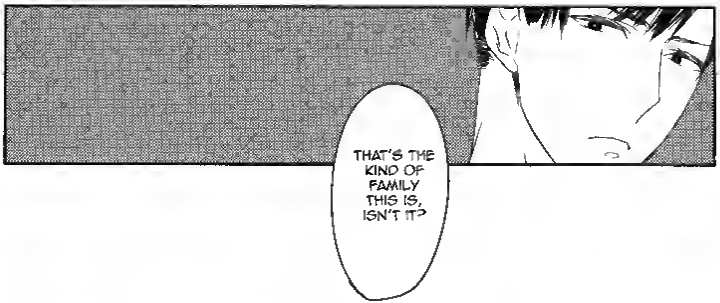
EDITOR/CLEANER: BEE

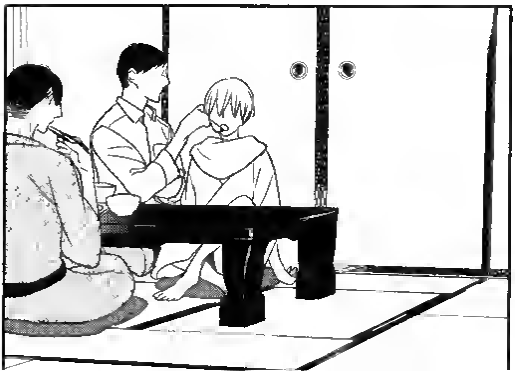
HOW DID IT GO AT THE MESS HALL WITH MR HONDA FROM THE LDP JUST NOW?


YOU CHOOSE

THE BUNCH OF OLD MEN I SAT WITH JUST NOW GAVE IT TO ME
AND TOLD ME TO HURRY UP AND SETTLE DOWN
WHAT?
I'M THE TRUE SUCCESSOR, SO
THEY PROBABLY WANT TO GET ME UNDER THEIR CONTROL BEFORE I GET ANY IDEAS OF MY OWN
YOU CHOOSE A WOMAN WHO'S SUITABLE ENOUGH FOR THIS FAMILY
BUT SOMEONE LIKE ME CAN'T MEDDLE IN SUCH
I DON'T MIND IT.

SHE'LL PROBABLY BECOME LIKE THE LATE MADAM.
.....


THAT'S THE KIND OF FAMILY THIS IS, ISN'T IT?



RANZOU-SAN, YOU MUSTN'T PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD.
<BANG>
だんっ
HEY,
<THUD>
ザ
!!

WHY ARE
<SLAP! SLAP!>
YOU EATING HERE WITH ME!?
ASHA
ASHA
THAT'S ENOUGH!!

UU-GUU
UU-GUU
PLEASE CALM DOWN
Ungyu
Shin
Ungyu
Snap

WHY ON EARTH DO YOU ONLY BECOME THIS UPSET WHEN IT COMES TO RANZOU-SAN?
.....
THE TWO OF THEM HAVE ALREADY PASSED AWAY
HE...
FATHER AND MOTHER BECAME CRAZY BECAUSE OF HIM...
HE'S PITIFUL...
JUST LOOK AT HOW MUCH HE'S SHAK-ING
Aaah!
AND DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS PERSON HAS SUCH POWER TO HAVE DONE THAT TO THEM?

HE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT DO YOU ANY HARM
HE'S FAR MORE HELPLESS THAN YOU
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID
I'M NOT AFRAID...
REALLY?

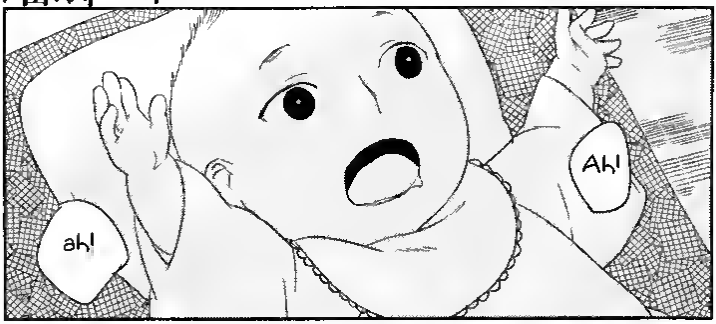
YES.
I'M AFRAID?

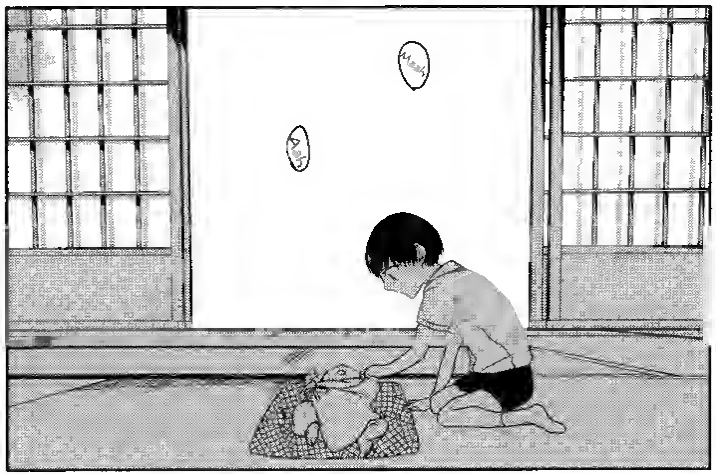
YOU NEED TO LAY OUT THE FUTON IF YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP
<THUD>

I SEE

I PUT RANZOU-SAN TO BED

蟷螂の檻





彩景でりこ

第2話

YOUNG MASTER,
HAVE YOU BEEN IN A FIST FIGHT BEFORE?
?
WHEN YOU HIT A PERSON, YOU SUDDENLY GET HARD BETWEEN THE LEGS
IT MAY SEEM AS IF YOU ARE AROUSED
THAT'S WHY WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU NOW ISN'T STRANGE IN THE LEAST

IT'S NOT
IT'S PART OF SURVIVAL INSTINCTS - MY FATHER, WHO WENT TO WAR, SAID THIS.
IT'S NOT STRANGE?
THAT HEAT JUST REMAINS IN YOU FOR SOME TIME.

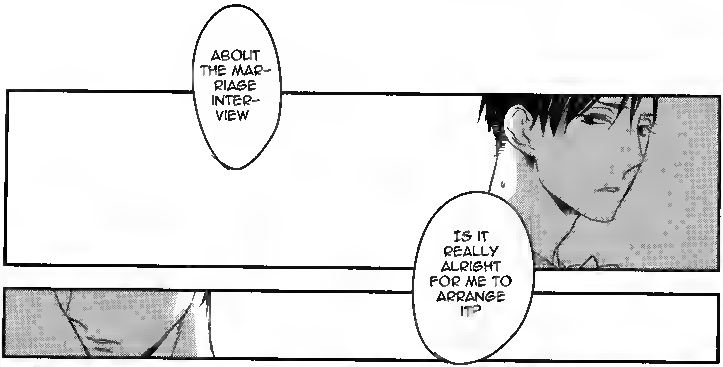
IT'S BEEN A WHILE WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TOUCH YOU?

THIS PART OF YOU IS STILL THE SAME, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
YOU ACT SO STRONG, BUT...
Fuu
Fuu
Fuu
Fuu

NORIHIKO
squelch
squelch
squelch
squelch
ngh
ngh
I'M SURE YOU DID THESE THINGS TO YOURSELF OVER AT THE UNIVERSITY.
YOU DIDN'T INDULGE IN GIRLS OR YOUR CLASSMATES?

ah
ahh
<SQUELCH>
ngh!
fuu
HERE, TOUCH YOURSELF
ah!
haa-
I DIDN'T
SQUELCH
SQUELCH
ah
SHUDDER

ha
ha
haa
I DO IT ONLY WITH YOU
nah
fuu
nah
ahh
ha
YOU ARE INDEED
ah
nah
ah
uuuu



To be continued

DON'T TOUCH THAT CHILD

蟷螂の檻

psyche delico 彩景でりこ

第2話

IKUROU IS TO SUCCEED HIS FATHER.

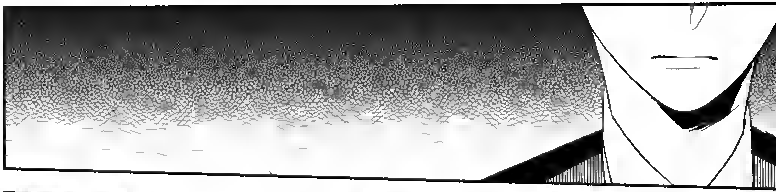
HOWEVER, THE ONE WHO INHERITED ALL OF THE FORTUNE IS HIS OLDER BROTHER, RANZOU, WHO IS BEING KEPT IN HIDING.

TOUMA IKUROU. ONCE HIS FATHER PASSES AWAY HE SUCCEEDS THE TOUMA RESIDENCE. WHEN HE WAS A CHILD, HE WITNESSED THE ESTRANGEMENT BETWEEN HIS FATHER AND RANZOU

NORIHIKO HAS WORKED FOR THE TOUMA SINCE IKUROU WAS A BABY

TO FIRST TIME READERS
THE TIME PERIOD IS THE SHOWA ERA. WHEN HIS FATHER THE HEAD OF THE WHOLE TOUMA FAMILY PASSES AWAY, A WAKE IS HELD AT THE TOUMA RESIDENCY. IKUROU, THE SECOND SON IS FED UP WITH HIS RELATIVES SUCKING UP TO HIM. WHEN SUDDENLY A YOUNG WHITE-HAIRED MAN INTRUDES ON THE WAKE. THAT PERSON IS RANZOU IKUROU'S HALF-BROTHER WHOM HIS FATHER LOVED VERY MUCH AND KEPT HIDDEN IN A CONFINEMENT ROOM FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS
I'M CUTTING HIS HAIR.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SNIP
THE MASTER... IT GREW OUT BECAUSE THE PREDECESSOR PREFERRED IT LIKE THAT, BUT
THAT'S OUT OF SEASON
SNIP
WHEN YOU LOOK AT IT THIS WAY, THOUGH, YOU TWO REALLY ARE BROTHERS.

HE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE YOU, YOUNG MASTER.



TOUMA KANZOU HAS BEEN KEPT HIDDEN IN A CONFINEMENT ROOM SINCE HE WAS A BABY HE CAN'T TALK HE INHERITED ALL OF THE TOUMA FORTUNE

WHAT ARE YOU--?!
HE'S VERY OBEDIENT

HE SAT STILL AND DIDN'T STRUGGLE ONCE WHILE I WAS CUTTING HIS HAIR
snip
snip
IT WAS A PROBLEM WHEN HE WANDERED AROUND AT FIRST, EVEN THOUGH HE PERHAPS WAS JUST CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT THE OUTSIDE WAS LIKE, BUT...
WHEN I EXPLAINED TO HIM WHY HE SHOULDN'T DO THAT ANYMORE, I BELIEVE HE UNDERSTOOD
rustle
rustle

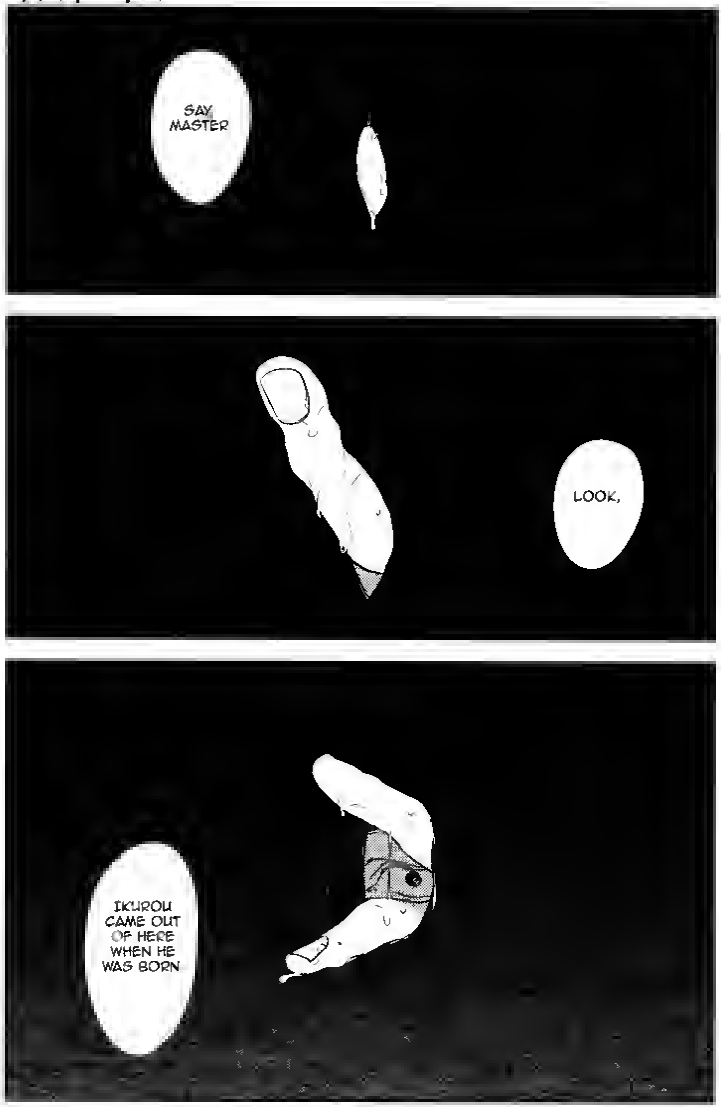
ALRIGHT RANZOU-SAN, I'M ALL DONE.
rustle
OH, WAIT!
YOU STILL HAVE HAIR STUCK ON YOU.
IT'S ITCHY, ISN'T IT?
achoo!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

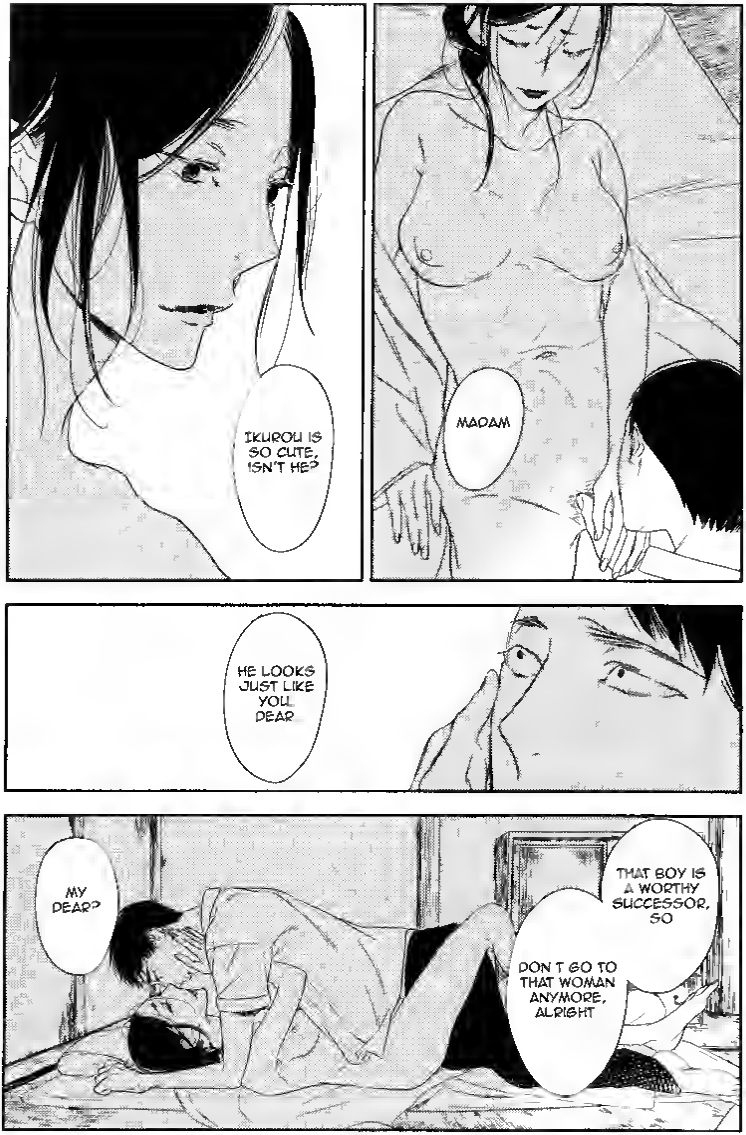
"TOUROU NO ORI" (CAGE OF THE PRAYING MANTIS) BY PSYCHE DELICO

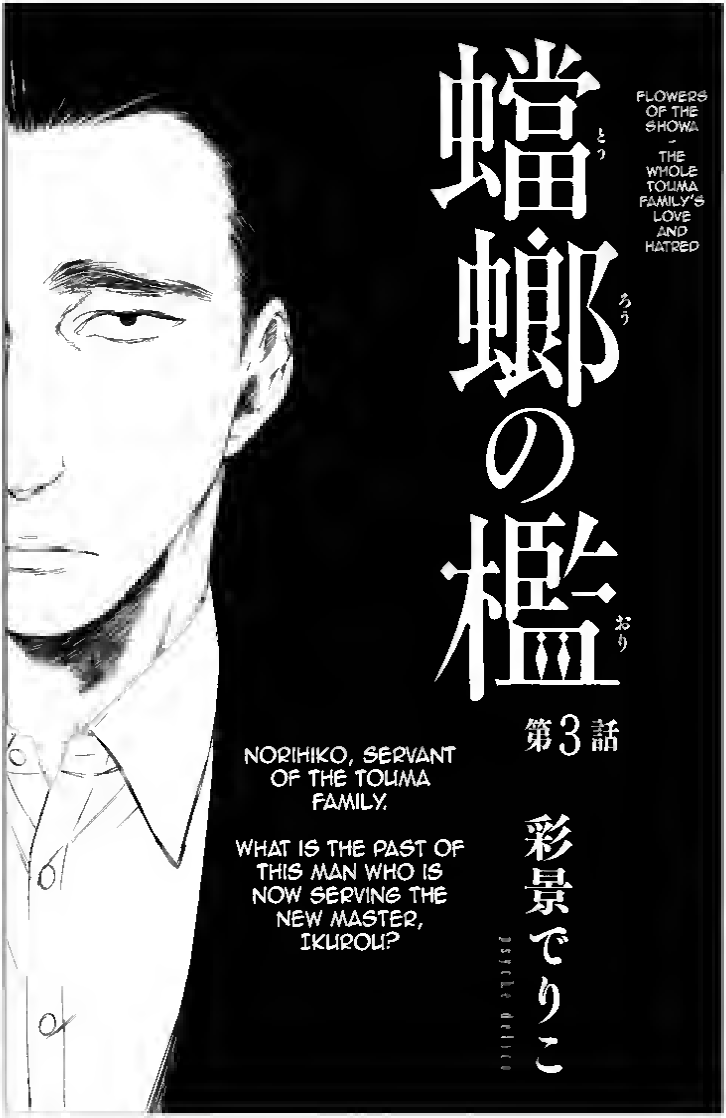
SCANS: HTTP://COCOBEES.TUMBLR.COM/

TRANSLATOR: HANACOCO

EDITOR/CLEANER: BEE


SAY,
MASTER
LOOK,
IKUROU
CAME OUT
OF HERE
WHEN HE
WAS BORN


IKUROU IS SO CUTE, ISN'T HE?
MADAM
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU, DEAR
MY DEAR?
THAT BOY IS A WORTHY SUCCESSOR, SO
DON'T GO TO THAT WOMAN ANYMORE, ALRIGHT



FLOWERS OF THE SHOWA – THE WHOLE TOUMA FAMILY'S LOVE AND HATRED

蟷螂の檻

第3話

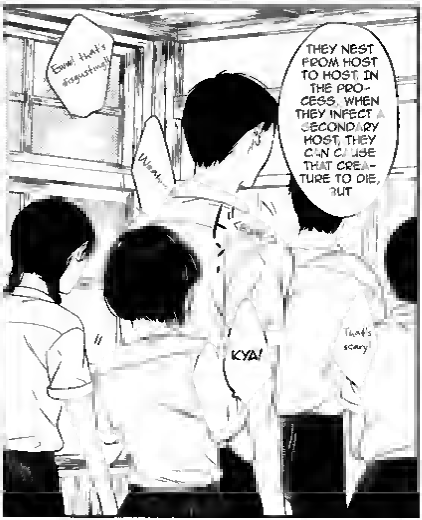
NORIHIKO, SERVANT OF THE TOUMA FAMILY.

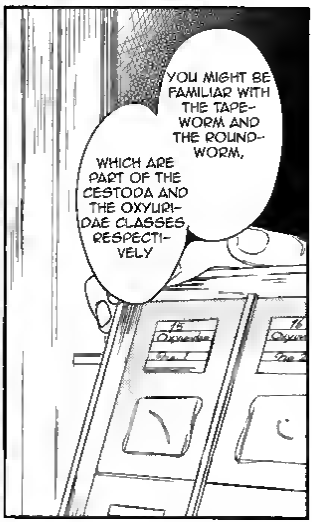
WHAT IS THE PAST OF THIS MAN WHO IS NOW SERVING THE NEW MASTER, IKUROU?

彩景でりこ

Saikei Deriko

I LIVE WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING THE TASTE OF WATER


Eww! That's disgusting!!
THEY NEST FROM HOST TO HOST. IN THE PROCESS, WHEN THEY INFECT A SECONDARY HOST, THEY CAN CAUSE THAT CREATURE TO DIE, BUT
That's scary
KYA!


YOU MIGHT BE FAMILIAR WITH THE TAPEWORM AND THE ROUNDWORM,
WHICH ARE PART OF THE CESTODA AND THE OXYURIDAE CLASSES, RESPECTIVELY

THE PARASITES MAKE SURE TO FORM A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR HOST
TEACHER,
SORRY
WHEN THEY KILL THEIR HOST, THEY THEMSELVES DIE, SO
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION
THE OTHER DAY I SAW THIS KIND OF THING COME OUT OF A MANTIS'S STOMACH
WAS THAT A PARASITIC WORM, TOO?
IT'S SAID THAT THE INSECT THAT WAS MADE INTO ITS HOST LOSES ITS REPRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS
THAT WAS A HORSEHAIR WORM. A PARASITIC WORM THAT REPRODUCES BY THE WATER'S EDGE
THEY GO FROM HOST TO HOST, STARTING WITH UNDERWATER INSECTS TO LAND INHABITING INSECTS, UNTIL FINALLY, THEY RETURN BACK INTO THE WATER, BUT

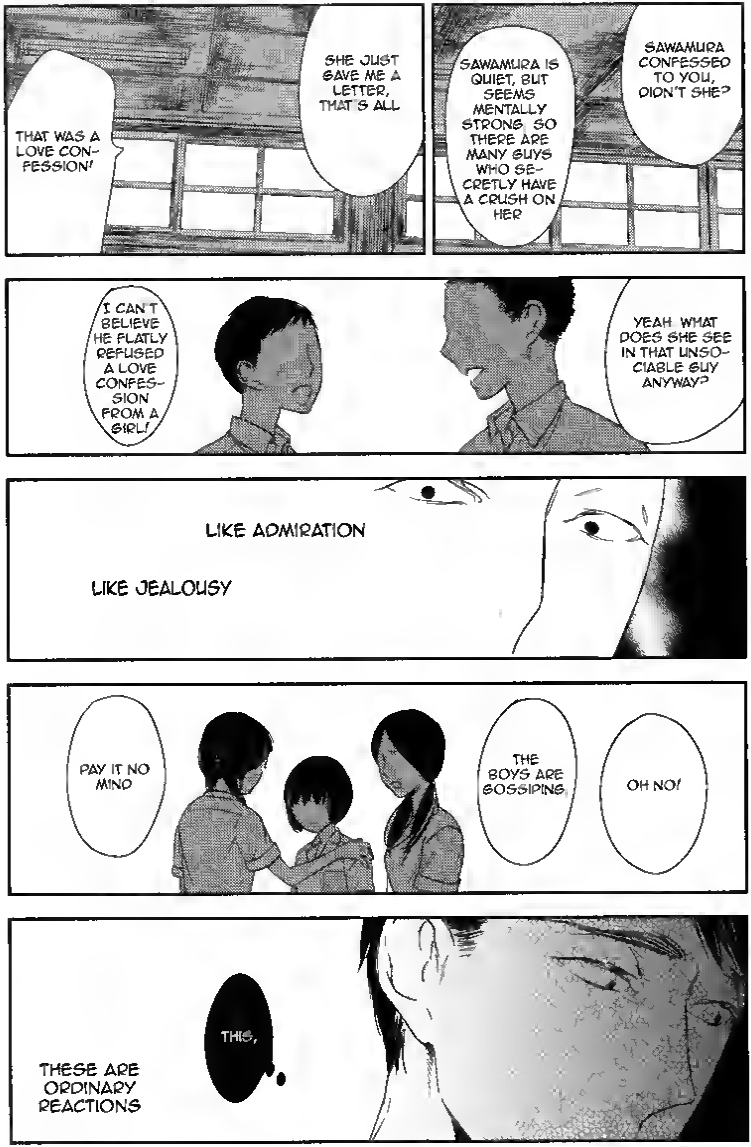
ding dong
I see
To Noriaki-sama
I M SORRY

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME FOR FRIVOLOUS THINGS LIKE HAVE ROMANTIC RELATIONS
WHEN I HAD ENTERED MIDDLE SCHOOL IT WAS DECIDED THAT I SERVE THE TOUMA FAMILY JUST LIKE MY FATHER HAD DONE SO

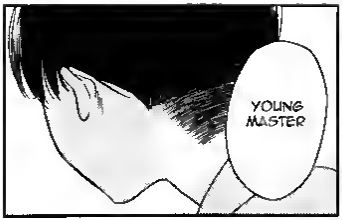
NORI-
HIKO,

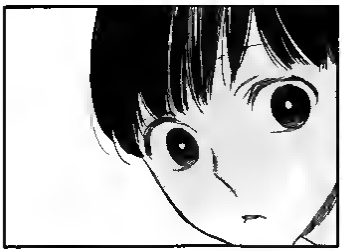
WELL, WELL, PLAYING INNOCENT WITH THAT COOL LOOK ON YOUR FACE?
THAT'S A GOOD PERSON-ALITY TRAIT TO HAVE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WE HEARD WHAT A LADY-KILLER YOU ARE


THAT WAS A LOVE CONFESSION!
SHE JUST GAVE ME A LETTER, THAT'S ALL
SAWAMURA CONFESSED TO YOU, DIDN'T SHE?
SAWAMURA IS QUIET, BUT SEEMS MENTALLY STRONG. SO THERE ARE MANY GUYS WHO SECRETLY HAVE A CRUSH ON HER
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE FLATLY REFUSED A LOVE CONFESSION FROM A GIRL!
YEAH. WHAT DOES SHE SEE IN THAT UNSOCIABLE GUY ANYWAY?
LIKE ADMIRATION
LIKE JEALOUSY
PAY IT NO MIND
THE BOYS ARE GOSSIPING.
OH NO!
THESE ARE ORDINARY REACTIONS
THIS,

TO ME,
IT WAS ALL A
STATE OF


YOUNG
MASTER



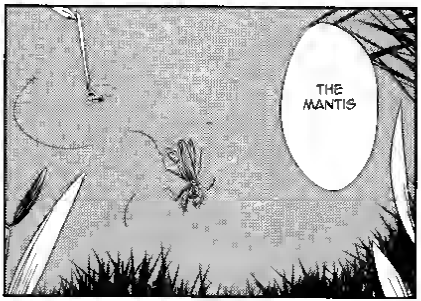
THAT MANTIS!
NORIMIKO
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT SO SERIOUSLY?
SOMETHING CAME OUT OF IT
THE MANTIS IS SWIMMING, BUT
DON'T, YOUNG MASTER.
Hee hee
I learned about the other day
IS IT POOP?
OH, THIS IS...

IF YOU TOUCH IT, IT'S GOING TO GO INSIDE YOUR BODY THROUGH THE FINGERNAILS AND KILL YOU

IT ENTERS THE BODY AND MAKES IT SICK
THAT'S A HORSEHAIR WORM. IT'S AN INSECT THAT TAKES OVER THE BODY OF A MANTIS
AN INSECT?

I'M SCARED!
Grab!
THAT'S A LIE, THOUGH.

CANNOT BE SAVED ANY-MORE


THE MANTIS

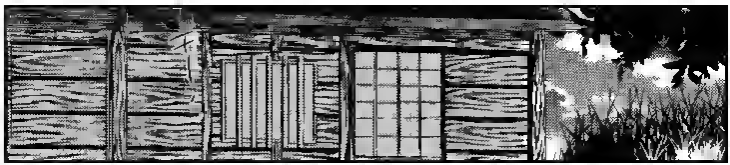
POOR LITTLE GUY.
THAT INSECT PROBABLY HARMED IT, DIDN'T IT?
ACTU-ALLY...
IKUROU
crunch

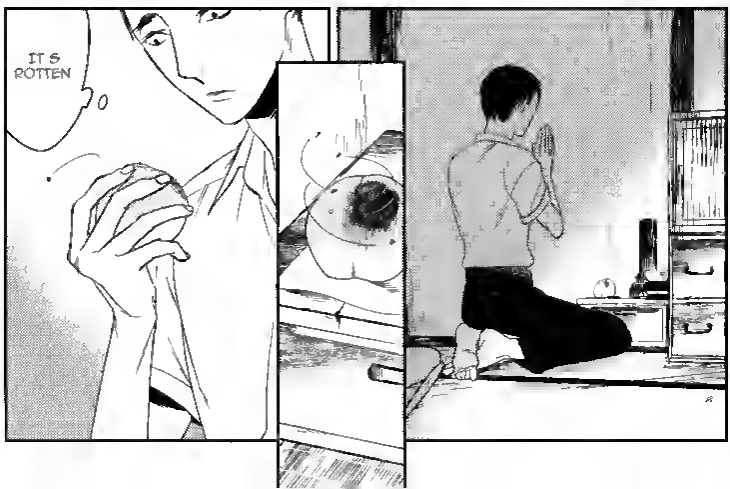
MOTHER!

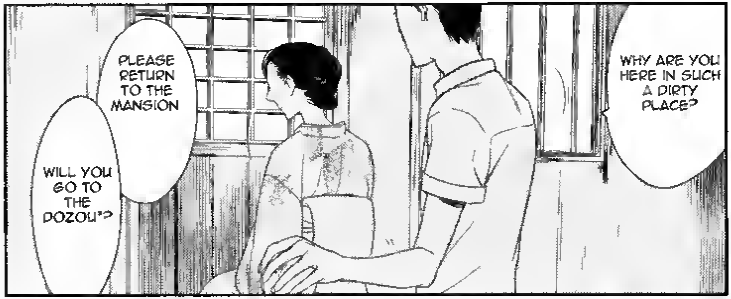
THERE YOU ARE.
WE'RE GOING BACK.

NORIMIKO, DEAR, DID YOU FIND HIM FOR ME?
NO,

I JUST HAPPENED TO COME ACROSS HIM ON MY WAY BACK FROM SCHOOL.
OH, I SEE.



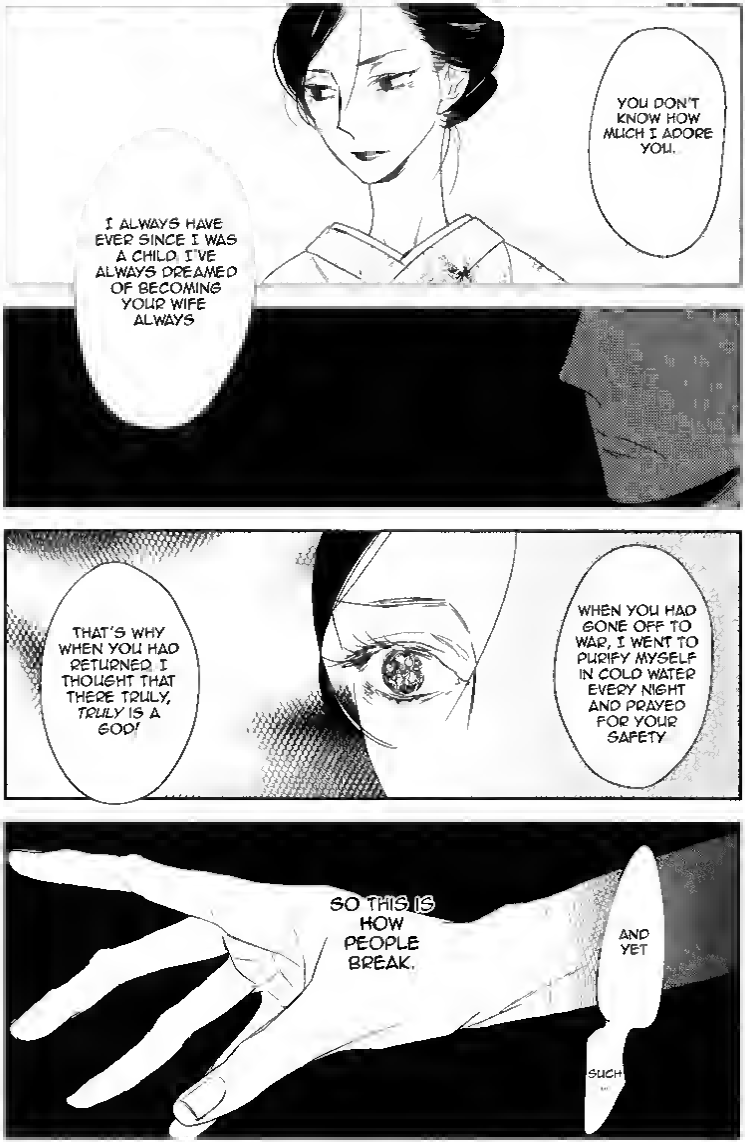

IT S
ROTTEN



*JAPANESE TRADITIONAL STOREHOUSE WITH THICK EARTHEN WALLS

ARGH! HE HAS SO MANY EXCUSES!!
THE FIRST BORN SON IS INSIDE..
WOMAN?
IT'S FILTHY SO FILTHY!
WHY IS THE CHILD THAT WOMAN GAVE BIRTH TO
HERE WITH IKUROU AND ME!?
GET AHOLD OF YOUR SELF
BUT..
ARE YOU GOING TO SAY THAT I WAS BEING UNFAITHFUL? THAT'S A FALSE ACCUSATION!
DO YOU TRUST THAT MAN MORE THAN ME!?

I WILL FORGIVE YOU


YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I ADORE YOU.
I ALWAYS HAVE EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD. I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF BECOMING YOUR WIFE ALWAYS
WHEN YOU HAD GONE OFF TO WAR, I WENT TO PURIFY MYSELF IN COLD WATER EVERY NIGHT AND PRAYED FOR YOUR SAFETY
THAT'S WHY WHEN YOU HAD RETURNED I THOUGHT THAT THERE TRULY, *TRULY* IS A GOD!
SO THIS IS HOW PEOPLE BREAK.
AND YET
SUCH

OH, MY LIPSTICK

THE WATER WAS SWEET.

I HEARD MOTHER PASSED AWAY AT THE HOSPITAL.

I'M SORRY I HAD NO INTENTION OF LETTING YOU KNOW
NO, IT'S OKAY
I HEAR SHE HAD A PEACEFUL EXPRESSION ON HER FACE IN HER FINAL HOUR
I'M TELLING YOU IT DOESN'T MATTER!
I'LL SCOLD THE HOUSEMAIDS LATER
.....

<GRAB>
I WILL EAT!!
YOU'RE GOING TO EAT?
clink clink
IT WAS MOTHER'S WISH THAT I BECOME A WORTHY MAN AND SUCCEED THIS HOUSEHOLD
THAT'S WHY...

<CLANK>
I'LL BECOME WORTHY
I'LL BECO-ME-
WORTHY
URGH!
YOU COULDN'T GO SEE HER AT THE HOSPITAL OR BE PRESENT AT HER BEDSIDE, SO
IT MUST BE HARD FOR YOU, RIGHT?

GO AHEAD AND CRY
I WAS ABANDONED BY A PERSON WHO WAS UNLOVED AND WANTED TO BE PITIED BY ANYONE
I'M... OKAY
NEVERTHELESS, I WILL TRY TO LIVE TRUE TO MYSELF
AND LOVE THIS BOY'S NOBLE SOUL
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH

SUCH PRE-CIOUS
INNO CENCE
THAT'S WHY
NORI-HIKO?
KISS

ngh
uh
ngu
ngh
Vo
THE WATER AT THAT TIME WAS!
haa

To be continued

"TOUROU NO ORI" (CAGE OF THE PRAYING MANTIS) BY PSYCHE DELICO

SCANS: HTTP://COCOBEES.TUMBLR.COM/

TRANSLATOR: HANACOCO

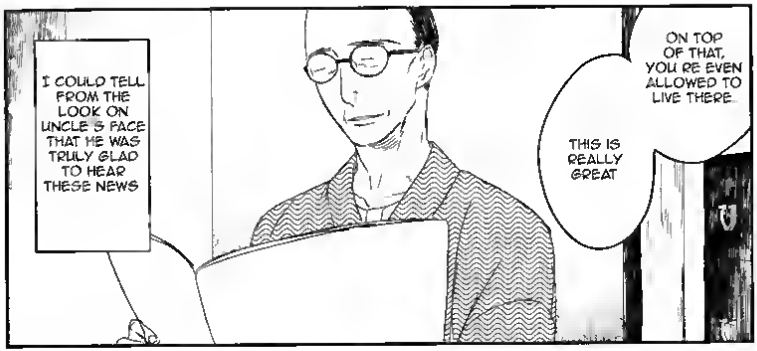
EDITOR/CLEANER: BEE

YE-YES...!!
IF HE'S CAUSING YOU TROUBLE, TIE HIM UP TO A TREE IN THE GARDEN.
..I
I WOULD HAVE TO DISAGREE WITH WHAT YOU SAY
THAT IS MY OPINION.

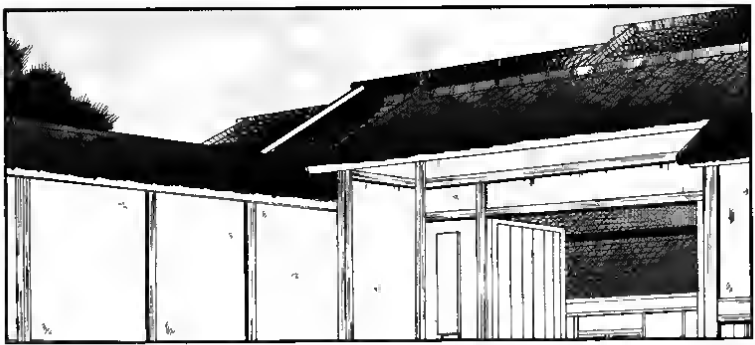
.....
MY NAME IS NISHIURA KENICHI. I'M A POSTMAN
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE TREATING YOUR OWN BROTHER TOO CRUELLY RIGHT NOW?
AHH, YOU'RE FROM THE POST OFFICE
THAT MEANS YOU ALSO BRING SHAME TO THIS FAMILY I SUPPOSE.
... PLEASE TAKE THAT BACK
OH, HOW RUDE OF ME. I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD UNDERSTAND WHAT I WAS SAYING

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
YOU BASTARD!!
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT, I THINK THIS IS PERFECT.
TAKE THAT BACK!!
DO YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM BECAUSE HE ALSO GETS SHUNNED BY THIS FAMILY AS YOU DO?
IF YOU FEEL THAT WAY, THEN LET'S HAVE YOU BE THE ONE TO TAKE CARE OF THIS BURDEN.

YOU SEEM TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH AND HAVE SOME MUSCLE
I THINK THIS WOULD BE THE MOST SUITABLE JOB FOR YOU
ISN'T IT GREAT THAT YOU GOT HIRED TO WORK FOR THE TOUMA RESIDENCE?


I COULD TELL FROM THE LOOK ON UNCLE'S FACE THAT HE WAS TRULY GLAD TO HEAR THESE NEWS
THIS IS REALLY GREAT
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE EVEN ALLOWED TO LIVE THERE

WE NEED TO BE GRATEFUL TO TOUMA-SAMA



THIS WILL BE YOURS AND RANZOU-SAN'S ROOM.
What!?

I WAS TOLD TO LOOK AFTER HIM, BUT...

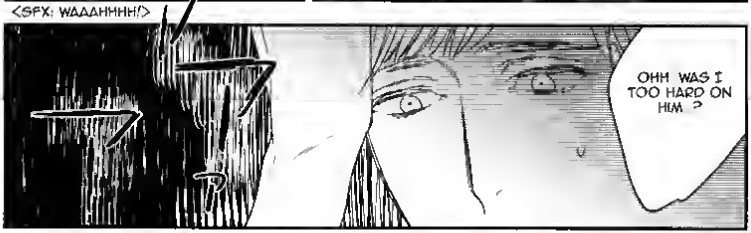
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT! AM I GOING TO LIVE HERE, IN THE MAN-SION?
OF COURSE

FRANKLY SPEAKING, YOU ARE TO BE WITH HIM AT ALL TIMES, WHETHER IT BE EATING OR SLEEPING
BECAUSE OF RANZOU-SAN'S CONDITION, HE ONLY UNDER-STANDS SIMPLE WORDS, SO
IT'S PROBABLY BEST IF YOU TIE A ROPE AROUND HIM TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GO OFF SOMEWHERE WHEN YOU'RE ASLEEP
BASICALLY, AS LONG AS YOU KEEP A CAREFUL WATCH OVER HIM AND MAKE SURE HE'S SAFE, IT'LL BE ALRIGHT
THAT MAKES HIM SEEM ALMOST AS IF HE'S JUST A THING.

glance
glance
OH.. RANZOU-SAN..
I..
turn
RANZOU-SAN!!
<DASH>
WAIT A MINUTE!!
SHIT! HE'S FASTER THAN I THOUGHT!

I TOLD YOU TO WAIT, DIDN'T I!?
IT'S DANGER-OUS OVER THERE!!
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU GET HURT!?

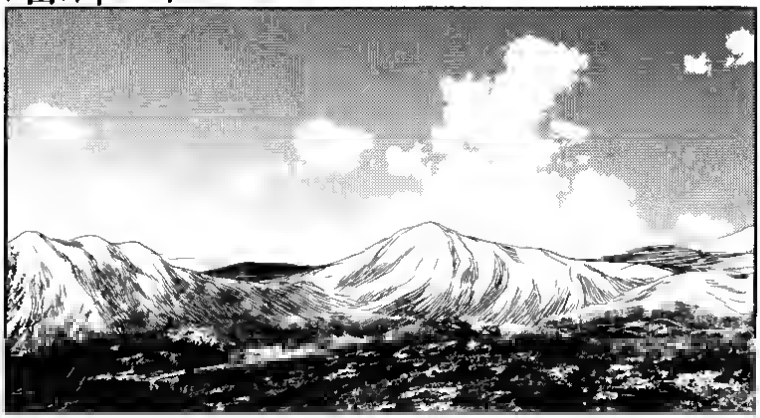
WHA-!? HOLD ON! PLEASE DON'T CRY!
URGH...


<SFX: WAAAHHHH!>
OHH WAS I TOO HARD ON HIM...?

HE- HEY!
WHAT THE-!?

ジャ
ジャ
ジャ
<SFX: SPLASH>

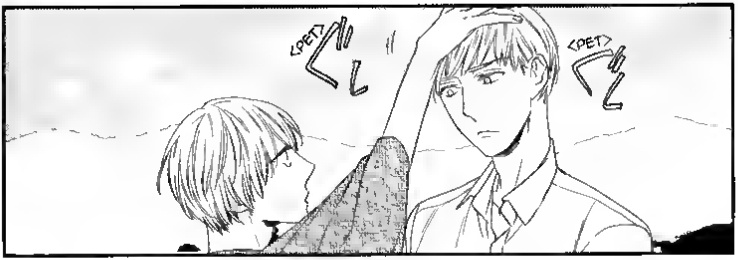
蟷螂の檻



彩景でりこ

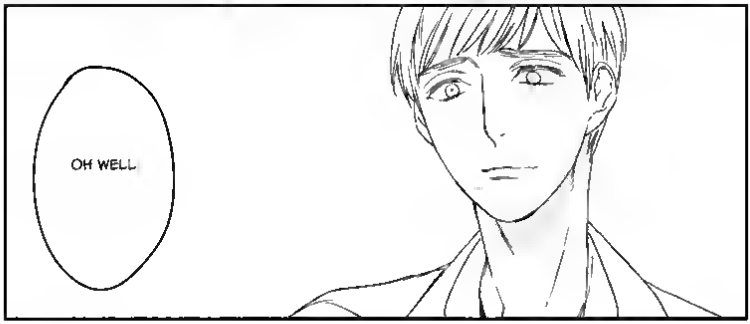
第4話

NOW I WANT TO CRY...
THIS IS MY ONLY PAIR OF PANTS...


<PET>
<PET>

WHO'S FAULT DO YOU THINK THIS WAS IN THE FIRST PLACE...?
SIGH...

ARE YOU CHEERING ME UP?

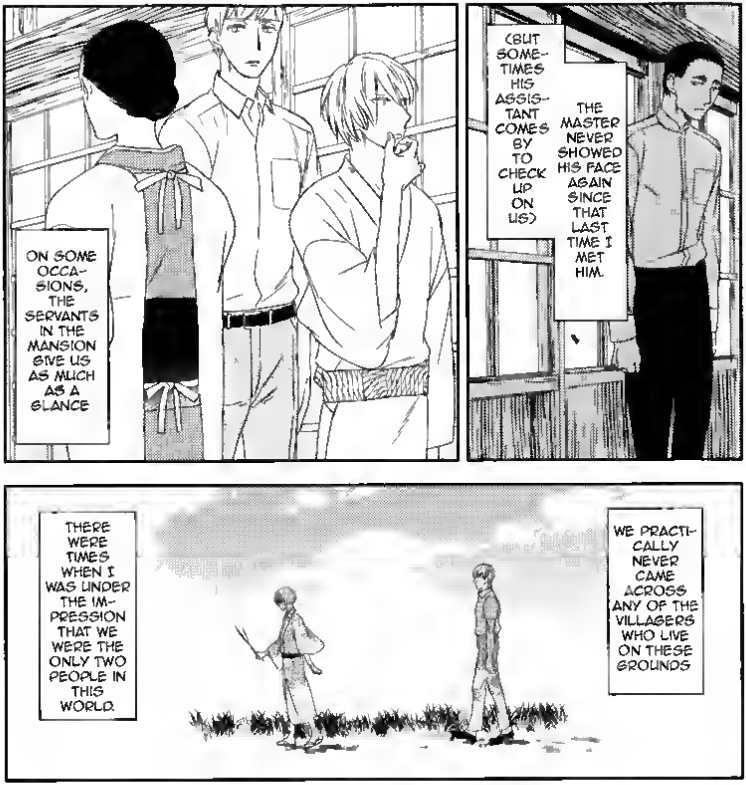


RANZOU AND I
BEGAN SPENDING
TIME TOGETHER LIKE
THIS

WE EAT TOGETHER, SEPARATE FROM EVERYONE ELSE
(APPARENTLY, HIS FAVORITE FOODS ARE APPLES AND FISH)

IT SEEMS THAT HE CAN'T USE CHOPSTICKS, BUT HE CAN EAT WITH A SPOON.

WE SLEEP WITH OUR FUTONS SIDE BY SIDE
I TIE A ROPE AROUND HIS WRIST TO MY WRIST JUST IN CASE HE TRIES TO RUN AWAY, BUT
HE ALWAYS SLEEPS SOUNDLY THE ENTIRE NIGHT THROUGH


ON SOME OCCASIONS, THE SERVANTS IN THE MANSION GIVE US AS MUCH AS A GLANCE
(BUT SOMETIMES HIS ASSISTANT COMES BY TO CHECK UP ON US)
THE MASTER NEVER SHOWED HIS FACE AGAIN SINCE THAT LAST TIME I MET HIM.
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD.
WE PRACTICALLY NEVER CAME ACROSS ANY OF THE VILLAGERS WHO LIVE ON THESE GROUNDS
RANZOU-SAN,

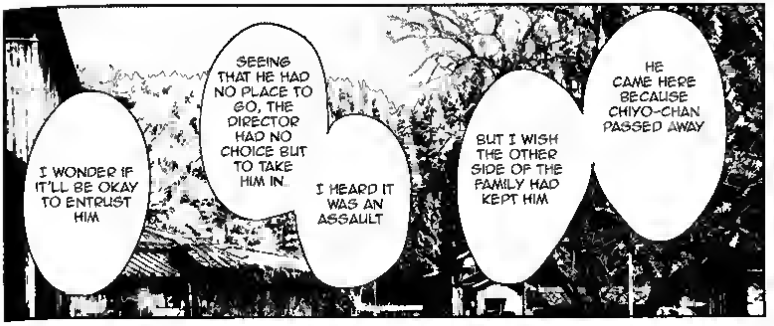
IT'S TIME TO GO HOME
FROM MORNING UNTIL NIGHT,
IT IS JUST THE TWO OF US- MYSELF, AND A CHILD WITH A BODY OF AN ADULT.
THIS SEEMED LIKE HEAVEN.
COMPARED TO THE ICY GLARES THE VILLAGERS HAD ALWAYS GIVEN ME BEFORE
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ

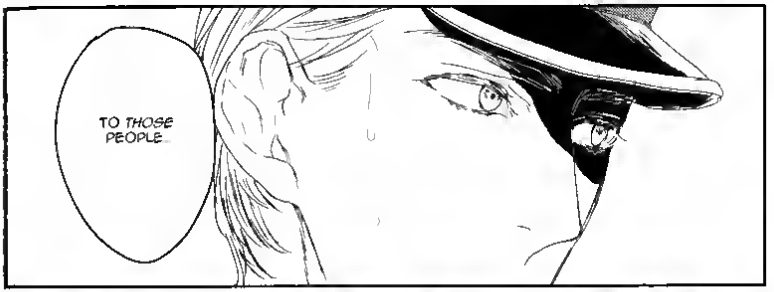
FALL
ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?
twist
buzz
buzz
buzz
buzz
buzz
OH, GEEZ YOU SKINNED YOUR KNEE AGAIN
IT'S A SHAME SINCE YOU HAVE SUCH BEAUTIFUL LEGS...
YOU HURT YOURSELF TOO MUCH

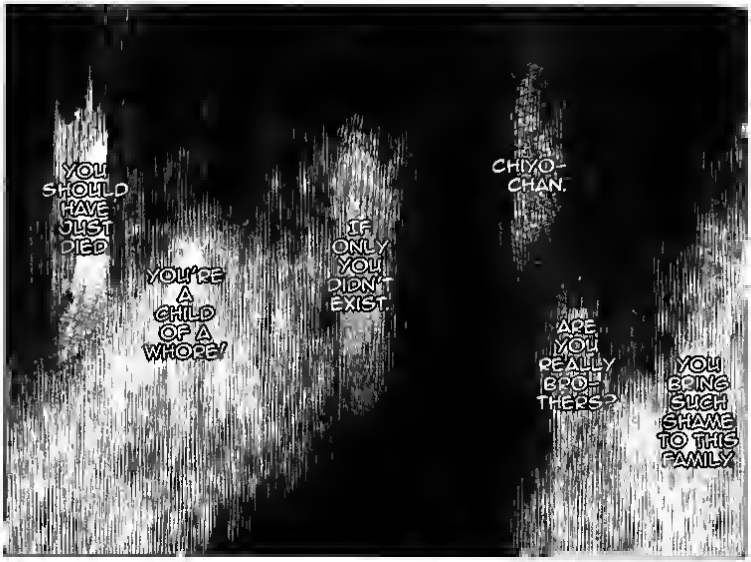
buzz
buzz buzz
buzz

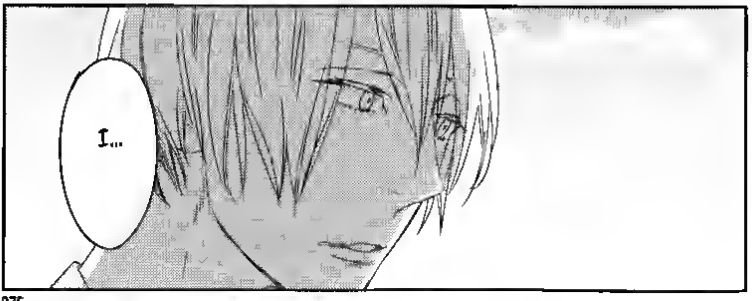
buzz
buzz

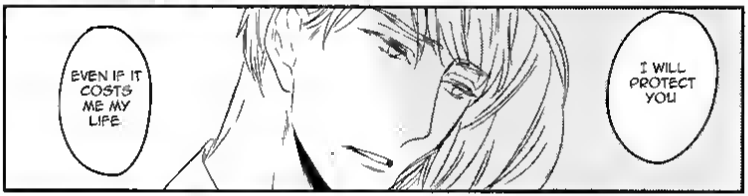
WAS IT AN AS-SAULT?
WELL THEN, YOU SHOULD HAVE ABORT-ED RIGHT?
HOW MUCH TROUBLE ARE YOU GOING TO CAUSE ME UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED?
WH I DISGRACE.
BRINGS SH ME ON THIS F MILY.
IF HE'S CAUSING YOU TROUBLE, TIE HIM UP TO A TREE IN THE GARDEN.
HE SHOULD HAVE JUST KEPT HIM LOCKED UP IN THE DOZOU.

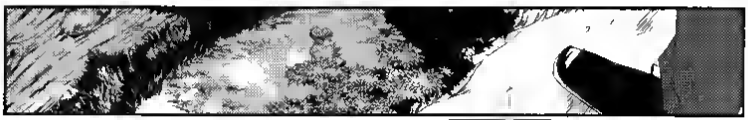

HE CAME HERE BECAUSE CHIYO-CHAN PASSED AWAY
BUT I WISH THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FAMILY HAD KEPT HIM
I HEARD IT WAS AN ASSAULT
SEEING THAT HE HAD NO PLACE TO GO, THE DIRECTOR HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE HIM IN.
I WONDER IF IT'LL BE OKAY TO ENTRUST HIM

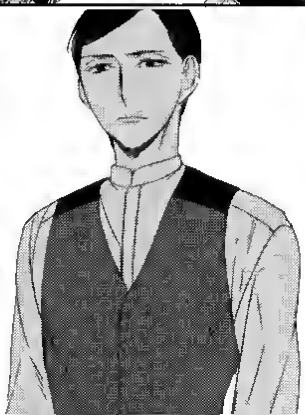

TO *THOSE* PEOPLE...


YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST DIED
YOU'RE A CHILD OF A WHORE!
IF ONLY YOU DIDN'T EXIST.
CHIYO-CHAN.
ARE YOU REALLY BRO-THERS?
YOU BRING SUCH SHAME TO THIS FAMILY


I...







To be continued

FLOWERS OF THE SHOWA - THE WHOLE TOUMA FAMILY'S LOVE AND HATRED

蟷螂の檻

THE ONE WHO INHERITED THE ENTIRE TOUMA FAMILY'S PROPERTY AND FORTUNE IS RANZOU - THE ELDEST BROTHER.

第4話

psyche delica
彩景でりこ

BUT HIS HEART IS LIKE A CHILD'S-?

THE TOUMA ESTATE IS LOCATED PAST THE GROVE OF TREES

ALL THE MOUNTAINS YOU CAN SEE ARE PART OF THE TOUMA FAMILY'S LAND.
THE GROUNDS ARE VAST - CONSISTING OF LARGE PLANTATION FIELDS AND LITTLE SHACKS WHERE THE SERVANTS LIVE.

WOAH!
SHOO! SHOO!
flutter

THE PROPERTY IS SO VAST I FEEL LIKE I'M NEVER GOING TO REACH THE MANSION

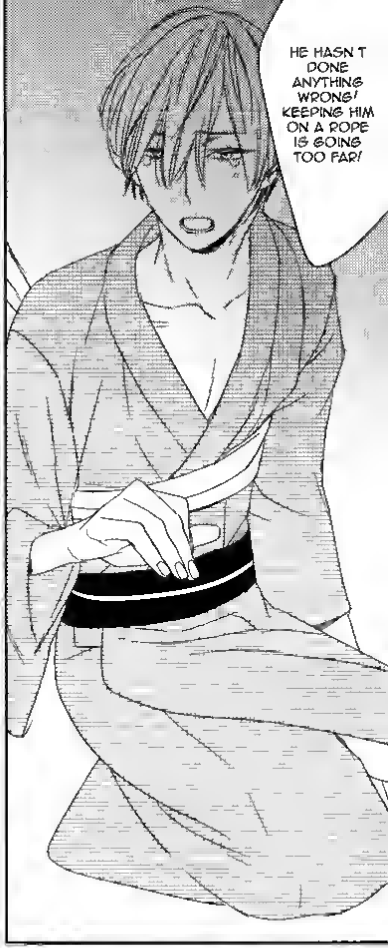
TO FIRST-TIME READERS

THE TIME PERIOD IS THE SHOWA ERA. THE HEAD OF THE TOJIMA FAMILY PASSES AWAY LEAVING HIS SON IKUROU, AS THE HEIR. BUT IKUROU KNOWS THAT HE HAS AN OLDER HALF-BROTHER. IKUROU'S FATHER KEPT THAT OLDER BROTHER CONFINED AND HIDDEN IN A ROOM FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS. THE OLDER BROTHER'S NAME IS RANZOU, A MAN WITH WHITE HAIR WHO WAS DEARLY LOVED BY IKUROU'S FATHER. IKUROU FEELS UNEASY THAT RANZOU EXISTS AND THE SERVANT NORIKO SEES THAT AND "COMFORTS" IKUROU.

THIS ISN'T A MAAM
AT
ALL
pant
OH, GOOD!
PLEASE HOLD HIM STILL!

TOUMA IKUHOU
ONCE HIS FATHER PASSES AWAY HE SUCCEEDS THE TOUMA RESIDENCE WHEN HE WAS A CHILD, HE WITNESSED THE BIZARRE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIS FATHER AND RANZOU
turns away
RANZOU-SAN, IT'S TIME TO GO HOME
AAAH!
YOU BEHAVE YOURSELF!!
OR THE YOUNG MASTER WILL YELL AT ME!
TOUMA RANZOU
HAS BEEN KEPT HIDDEN IN A CONFINEMENT ROOM SINCE HE WAS A BABY HE CAN'T TALK HE INHERITED ALL OF THE TOUMA FORTUNE
WAIT A MINUTE! HOLD ON!
wahkkkk
GOOD GRIEF!! THEY SAY THIS IS THE YOUNG MASTER'S OLDER BROTHER, BUT IS THAT REALLY TRUE?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IF I DON'T DO THIS, HE'LL RUN OFF SOMEWHERE


HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG! KEEPING HIM ON A ROPE IS GOING TOO FAR!

HE'S A FOOL WITH TOO MUCH ENERGY AND COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL.

WHAT'S ALL THIS COMMOTION ABOUT?
BUT HOW CAN YOU DO THIS TO A PERSON...!?
NOBUHIKO HAS WORKED FOR THE TOKUMA SINCE IKUSOU WAS A BABY

YOUNG MAST- I MEAN, MASTER!
YOU SEE, I
HE IS SO TROUBLE-SOME
AND BRINGS SHAME TO THIS FAMILY.
FATHER DID SOME-THING UNCALLED FOR.
HE SHOULD HAVE JUST KEPT HIM LOCKED UP IN THE DOZOU.*

*DOZOU: A JAPANESE TRADI-TIONAL STOREHOUSE WITH THICK EARTHEN WALLS

"TOUROU NO ORI" (CAGE OF THE PRAYING MANTIS) BY PSYCHE DELICO

SCANS: HTTP://COCOBEES.TUMBLR.COM/

TRANSLATOR: HANACOCO

EDITOR/CLEANER: BEE

"TOUROU NO ORI" (CAGE OF THE PRAYING MANTIS) BY PSYCHE DELICO

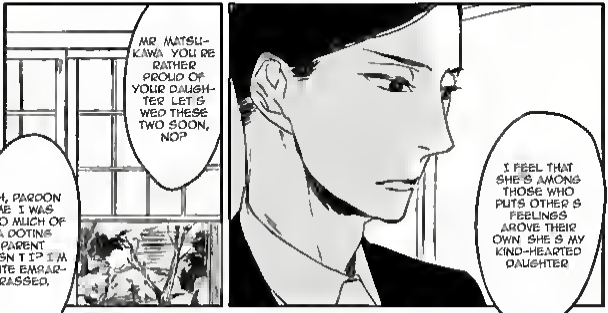
SCANS: HTTP://COCOBEES.TUMBLR.COM/

TRANSLATOR: HANACOCO

EDITOR/CLEANER: BEE

OUR SACHIKO-SAN HERE IS A TALENTED YOUNG GRADUATE FROM AN ALL-WOMEN'S HIGH SCHOOL.
SHE'S CLOSE IN AGE TO IKUROU-SAN, SO WE BELIEVE YOU TWO WILL SUIT EACH OTHER

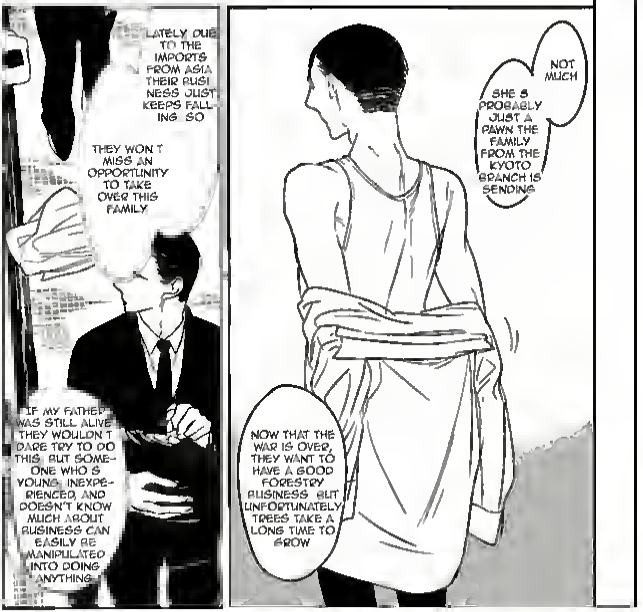
SHE'S A SMART GIRL, YOU SEE. VERY CONSIDERATE OF WHAT I HER FATHER TELLS HER
SHE PAID HER RESPECTS TO YOU AT THE WAKE. I'M SURE YOU REMEMBER HER


MR MATSUKAWA, YOU'RE RATHER PROUD OF YOUR DAUGHTER, LET'S WED THESE TWO SOON, NO?
OH, PARDON ME. I WAS TOO MUCH OF A DOTING PARENT, WASN'T I? I'M QUITE EMBARRASSED.
I FEEL THAT SHE'S AMONG THOSE WHO PUTS OTHER'S FEELINGS ABOVE THEIR OWN. SHE'S MY KIND-HEARTED DAUGHTER

IT'S QUITE SULTRY IN THIS ROOM, ISN'T IT?
NO, I UNDERSTAND YOU VERY WELL. YOU HAVE A YOUNG DAUGHTER YOU WANT TO BOAST ABOUT.
NO, NO, DON'T BE ABSURD. MY BEHAVIOR IS SHAMELESS.
WELL THEN, WE'LL LEAVE YOU TWO
WON'T YOU JOIN ME OUTSIDE FOR A LITTLE WALK?
IN THIS COLD WEATHER?

FLOWERS OF THE SHOWA - THE WHOLE TOUMA FAMILY'S LOVE AND HATRED
蟷螂の檻
第5話
彩景でりこ
Deriko Aikei
IKUROU MANAGES EVERYTHING
TO DO WITH THE TOUMA FAMILY.
HE HAS A MARRIAGE INTERVIEW ARRANGED, BUT-

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MISS SACHIKO?


LATELY DUE TO THE IMPORTS FROM ASIA THEIR BUSINESS JUST KEEPS FALLING. SO
THEY WON'T MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE OVER THIS FAMILY.
IF MY FATHER WAS STILL ALIVE THEY WOULDN'T DARE TRY TO DO THIS. BUT SOMEONE WHO'S YOUNG, INEXPERIENCED AND DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT BUSINESS CAN EASILY BE MANIPULATED INTO DOING ANYTHING.
NOT MUCH
SHE'S PROBABLY JUST A PAWN THE FAMILY FROM THE KYOTO BRANCH IS SENDING
NOW THAT THE WAR IS OVER, THEY WANT TO HAVE A GOOD FORESTRY BUSINESS. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, TREES TAKE A LONG TIME TO GROW

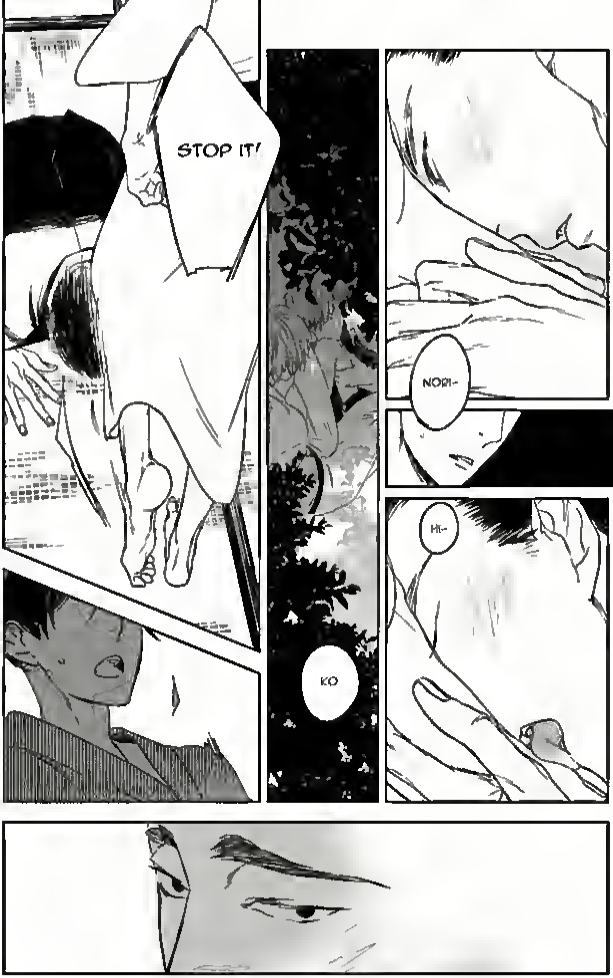
SHOULD I DECLINE THEIR PROPOSAL?
I DON'T CARE.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN ANY OF THIS ANYWAYS
BUT
I THINK IT IS AMUSING THAT THOSE GUYS ARE STILL SO FIXATED ON THE IDEA THAT I OWN EVERYTHING BELONGING TO TOUMA
I WAS JUST A REPRESENTATIVE
FROM THE VERY START

IKUROU-SAMA...
BECAUSE THAT GUY DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT FROM WRONG.
YOU'RE FULL OF EMOTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO RANZOU-SAN, AREN'T YOU?
Slap!

PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS

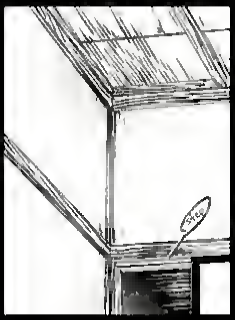
flinch

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY


STOP IT!
NORI-
HI-
KO

YOU'RE LIKE THAT
BECAUSE I LICKED YOUR FEET JUST NOW RIGHT?
YOU SLAPPED ME AND
KICKED ME SO YOU "REACTED" BECAUSE OF THAT
RIGHT?
YE-
YES

IF YOU HAVE SOME LAUNDRY THAT NEEDS WASHING YOU SHOULD ASK ONE OF THE MAIDS TO DO IT, OKAY?
HIRO
NO- NO-
NORI- HIKO!!?
YOU'VE BEEN COMING HERE EVERY DAY LATELY HAVEN'T YOU?
DID YOU DRAW A MAP ON HOW TO [redacted] HERE?
NO!
I DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT I'M NOT A CHILD!
YOU'RE RIGHT, YOUNG MASTER. YOU'VE BECOME AN ADULT.



THERE WAS A NUMB, TINGLING FEELING DEEP IN MY EAR

OKAY

WHY DO YOU HAVE A TUB OF HOT WATER?
WELL, I THOUGHT WE MIGHT NEED IT
BUT ACTUALLY, A HOT BATH WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST...
!
!?
spreads
PARDON ME.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
A-
A-
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO GO TO THE TOILET HERE!?

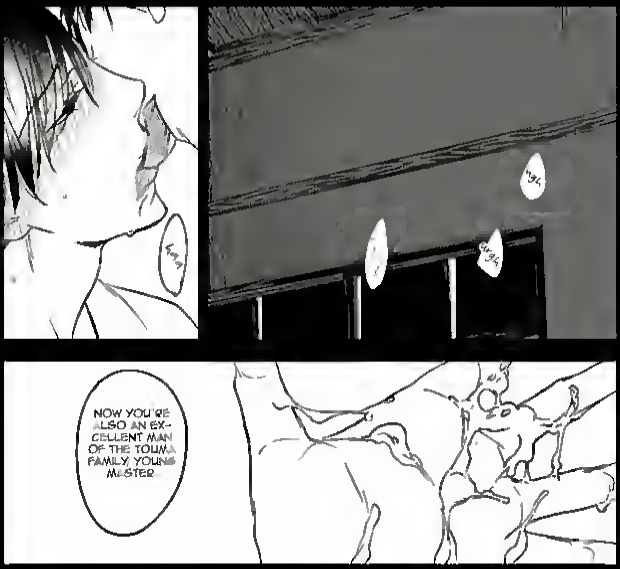
YOUNG MASTER, THIS IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR BODY HERE IS USED FOR OTHER THINGS BESIDES URINATING
THIS RIGHT HERE IS FULL OF THE THINGS YOU NEED IN ORDER TO MAKE CHILDREN.
RUB
STROKE
YOU PUT THIS INSIDE A WOMEN AND CREATE A CHILD.
IT'S AN EXCELLENT THING... AND AS THEY SAY, TH IT'S PROOF TH AT YOU'VE BECOME AN ADULT.
SHIVER
AND IF YOU SHOW A REACTION, IT'S PROOF THAT YOU'RE HEALTHY, SO
THERE'S NO NEED TO HOLD BACK.
DON'T YOU LEARN ABOUT THIS AT SCHOOL?
I DON'T KNOW...!

WHY'RE YOU TAKING OFF MY...?
I NEED TO HELP YOU LET IT OUT
grab
HMM YOU PROBABLY SHOULD EJACULATE ALL OF YOUR SPERM INTO A WOMAN'S WOMB
YOU OBVIOUSLY CAN'T DO THAT NOW, SO
blush
BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO GET THEM WET AND HAVE DIRTY UNDERWEAR TOMORROW MORNING
HERE, PLEASE TOUCH YOURSELF.

HOW IS IT?
rub
rub
fuu
rub
rub
IT GOT A LITTLE DIRTY INSIDE HERE
Ah
Don't put your finger in
Ngh
LET'S WIPE IT OFF LATER SO IT'S CLEAN, OKAY?
HURTS!
IT HURTS!
<SFX SQUELCH>
Ngh!
!

drip
cough. cough
hah
hah
hah
hah
IT HURTS.
DON'T YANK IT.
DON'T!
ah
ah
haa

THIS AGAIN...
NOT...
HIS HEARTBEAT IS...
HIS PULSE IS...



BUT

I STOPPED WASHING MY UNDERWEAR IN THE MORNINGS AFTER THAT

THIS ISN'T IT.
MY FATHER TOOK NO NOTICE OF ME.
THE LIPS
THE EAR
AND SPENT HIS TIME DEEP WITHIN THE MANSION
AND THEN
MY MOTHER WENT MAD AND DIED.

THAT HOT TONGUE MADE ME FORGET ALL OF THOSE THINGS
YOUNG MASTER

THE EAR
THE EAR?
OHH..
AND THEN...

WE CAN'T DO THIS.
YOUNG MASTER THAT KIND OF THING IS NORMALLY DONE BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH A SERVANT SUCH AS MYSELF.

YOU WON'T BECOME AN EXCELLENT MAN OF THE TOUMA FAMILY AS YOUR MOTHER HAD WISHED LIKE THIS...
BUT!

OH...

カァァ

<SFX BLUSH>

squeak

wobble

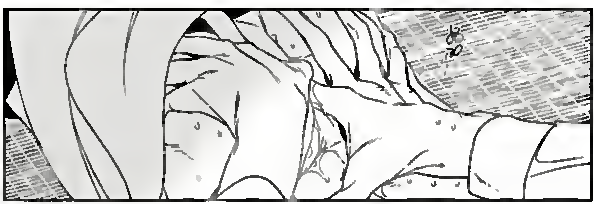
...OKAY

BUT IF I'M JUST HELPING YOU, THEN WE CAN DO THIS
pull
Ahh

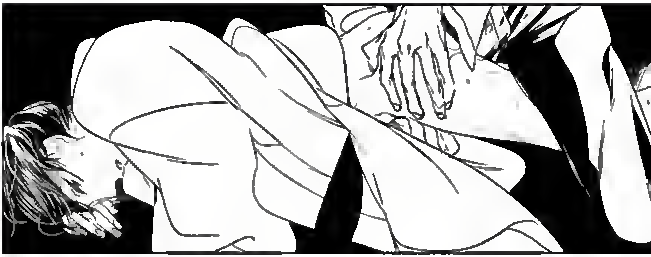
urgh
ugh
urgh
ah!
ah!
ah!
ah!
hmm
hmm
hmm
THAT'S...
UM
I WANT TO SEE
touch
IT'S THE SAME AS YOURS YOUNG MASTER

<SFX REMOVED>

AT THAT TIME, FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT "SATISFIED".



I'M SORRY, YOUNG MASTER
COULD I HAVE YOU CLOSE YOUR LEGS?
ngh
drip



THIS
THING
WE
DO

IS NOT TO MAKE CHILDREN,
OR SOMETHING THAT'S DONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD, AND
NOT THE LIPS
WE CAN'T
IT'S FAR FROM WHAT MY MOTHER WOULD HAVE WANTED.
I KNEW ALL THAT.

To be continued